



University of Saskatchewan - Graduate Students' Association

Executive Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2020

Present: Mery Mendoza (President), Mohammad Wajih Alam (VP Finance and Operations), Chiamaka Ezekwesili (VP External), Alejandra Fonseca (VP Student Affairs).

Regret/Absent: None

Guests: Asanka Godakanda and Maria Alejandra Oviedo-Ludena

1. Call to Order / Opening Remarks

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The President welcomed the executive to the New Year and thanked us for continuing our work with the same enthusiasm that we started our position at the GSA and she hopes that it continues throughout the remaining term.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The President asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda as circulated.

The President added the following items for action/information:

Committee for Teaching Award Nomination

The VP Finance and Operations added the following item for action/information:

Office Manager Vacation

Winter Term Bursary

Motion: To approve the agenda as amended.

Moved: VP Student Affairs;

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations.

Vote All in Favour (VP External abstain), Motion carried.

3. Items for Action

3.1 Funding request for 2020 Annual Plant Science Graduate Student Symposium

The President received a funding request from Plant Science Graduate Student Symposium (PSGSS) and invited the executives from PSGSS to join the GSA Executive Meeting. Asanka and Alejandra attended on behalf of PSGSS. The President welcomed both of them to the GSA Executive meeting and asked for a brief description of the event. They explained that the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan will be hosting the 36th Annual Plant Sciences Graduate Student Symposium (PSGSS) in Saskatoon, on March 13th and 14th, 2020. This event is directed, planned and executed by the Plant Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA). This event is a conference that brings together graduate students from North Dakota State University, the University of Manitoba, University of Alberta, and the University of Saskatchewan. This conference is an excellent opportunity to promote plant science research to students from these universities and to promote the thriving agricultural industry in and around the prairies. They will be inviting renowned researchers in the respective fields of plant pathology, plant breeding, plant physiology, genomics and biotechnology, agronomy and weed science to speak at the symposium. Students from these universities will also present their research, which will cover a wide range of topics related to plant sciences. They expect about 100 attendees, of which the majority will be students from this field. This is a free 2-day event. There will also be tours for participants to the Canadian Light Source (CLS) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The President thanked them for providing the details of the event and opened the floor for questions.

The VP Finance and Operations thanked both representatives for coming and explaining in detail the event and asked if they have collected sufficient funding for the event and how they stand financially. They have received funding from various sources and getting funding from GSA would ensure that the event will be success. The VP Student Affairs asked if the event will take place in multiple places. Alejandra replied that the event will take place at the Holiday Inn, so it is a single-

venue which will provide a discount to attendees for accommodation. The VP Student Affairs further asked if the Banquet will be open to students. Asanka replied that it is open to students and is free of charge. The President asked if they plan to provide bursary to students who are willing to join the conference. They replied that they are not able to provide bursaries but they will be providing free transportation service from the Airport to the venue. They further added that the attendees will need to cover the cost of accommodation by themselves.

The President mentioned that when the GSA sponsors an event, the GSA logo is expected to be on the posters and an announcement should be made at the event. The President indicated that the decision is based on the budget and not on the event and thanked both Asanka and Alejandra for providing the proposal and further information. The president further indicated that a decision will be made and communicated via email within a week.

Motion: to approve funding in the amount of \$500 for this event

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour (VP External abstain), Motion carried.

3.2 Changing the schedule of GSA executive meetings

The President mentioned that there is a conflict in the schedule of the VP External with the executive meetings due to overlapping with her classes. To accommodate this, alternate dates and times for the GSA executive meetings are proposed. The future meetings for Winter Term are scheduled as:

January 28, 2020 at 4PM

March 3, 2020 at 5PM

February 4, 2020 at 5PM

March 24, 2020 at 5PM

February 18, 2020 at 5PM

April 28, 2020 at 5PM

Motion: to approve the above mentioned dates for executive meetings

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.3 GSA representative in the Lobby week CFS

The President mentioned that the GSA has received invitation to participate in Lobby Week. The Federation's federal lobby week has been scheduled for the week of February 18-21st, 2020. The Lobby Week provides an opportunity for students and student representatives to engage with, and seek commitments from, MPs and Senators on student issues. This year's lobby discussion will include recommendations and costings on universal, accessible post-secondary education, funding and supports for Indigenous learners, funding for graduate students and research, action on climate change, and student housing. CFS will be covering the transportation as well as accommodation of the GSA representative. The President recommends the VP External to attend this event on behalf of GSA and hopes that she shares her experience upon her return.

Motion: to approve the VP External to attend the Lobby week

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: President

Vote All in Favour (Abstention from VP External), Motion carried.

3.4 Graduate student representative for the Arts and Science College Planning Advisory Committee

The Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Peta Bonham-Smith, is looking for a graduate student representative to join the Arts and Science College Planning Advisory Committee. The GSA appointed Osai Clarke, a graduate student from the College of Arts and Science to sit on this committee. He has agreed to be part of this committee.

Motion: to approve the graduate student Osai Clarke to sit on the above committee.

Moved: VP Student Affairs

Seconded: VP Finance and Operations

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.5 Graduate student representative for the College of Education Search Committee for an Associate Dean, Research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Committee

The College of Education is requesting for a graduate student representative to sit on college of Education Search Committee for an Associate Dean, Research and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Committee. The GSA appointed Kenisha Blair-Walcott to serve on this committee. She has agreed to sit on the committee.

Motion: To approve the graduate student Kenisha to sit in the above committee

Moved: VP Finance and Operations

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.6 Office Manager day-off on February 4, 2020

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the Office Manager has requested a day-off on February 4th, 2020 and asked if any executives are available to cover this shift. The President and the VP External volunteered to cover the morning shift (9am-12pm) while the VP Student Affairs volunteered to cover the afternoon shift (1pm-4:30PM). The VP Finance and Operations thanked the executives for volunteering their time and ensuring that the GSA commons runs efficiently.

Motion: to approve the above executives to cover the shifts of Office Manager's day-off on February 4, 2020

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.7 GSA Representative for 2020 Teaching Awards nominations for the Provost's Awards and the Sylvia Wallace Award

The President mentioned that she has received an invitation to serve on the 2020 Teaching Awards nominations for the Provost's Awards and the Sylvia Wallace Award. The goal of this committee is to ensure peer recognition in teaching excellence and to ensure that graduate and undergraduate

students' voices and experiences play a role through in the process of recognizing teaching excellence on campus.

Motion: to approve the President to serve on the above committee

Moved: VP Finance and Operations;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

3.8 Cheque Remittance

Whereas GSA bylaws 5.4.3 restricts expenditure amounts above \$500, of any budget line, with the exception of salaries and Executive honorariums, without a majority vote of the Executive. BIRT that the following expenditures be authorized:

- Payment to Coordinator Olatunji Olabiyi in the sum of \$531.06 issued on December 31, 2019 for covering shifts at GSA.
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$3607.50 issued on January 09, 2020 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment to Chip Bookkeeping Services Inc. in the sum of \$549.66 issued on January 09, 2020 for bookkeeping services
- Payment to Remai Modern in the sum of \$10,000 issued on January 13, 2020 as second deposit for 2020 Annual Gala
- Payment to Buckberger Baerg in the sum of \$2,220 issued on January 13, 2020 for Financial Auditing services.
- Payment to One Brand in the sum of \$1,152.77 issued on January 13, 2020 for Winter Orientation swag

Motion: to approve the expenditures outlined in this section above

Moved: President;

Seconded: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.

4. Items for Information / Discussion

4.1 Winter Term Bursary Dates

The VP Finance and Operations mentioned that the call for applications for winter need-based bursaries will start from February 3rd, 2020 to February 21st, 2020. The applicants will be able to submit their application in the GSA Commons between 10 AM to 5 PM. After the deadline for applications, the bursary selection committee will sit together and evaluate the applications. Applicants will be notified by email on/before March 9th, 2020 with the final decision of the committee. He also mentioned that this information is reflected on the website now and will be circulated via GSA newsletter, and PAWS.

5. Other Business

6. Confidential Session

7. In Camera Session

8. Adjournment of Meeting

President asked if there were any other business arising. Since there were none, motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Moved: VP External

Seconded by: VP Student Affairs

Vote All in Favour, Motion carried.